

BOOK NOTICES/BOOKS RECEIVED

TEXAS GARDENING THE NATURAL WAY

HOWARD GARRETT. 2004. **Texas Gardening the Natural Way: The Complete Handbook** (ISBN 0-292-70542-5, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A., (Orders: 800-252-3206, 800-687-6046 fax). \$34.95, 396 pp., 833 color photos, 13 color illus., 6 maps, 3 line drawings, 8 1/2" x 11".

Howard Garrett's newest book is a masterpiece. He has pulled together all the information contained in his earlier works and has compiled it into one comprehensive and integrated volume. *Texas Gardening the Natural Way* is indeed the complete handbook for Texas organic gardeners.

He has drawn on his previous works for completeness. They include: *Garrett's Plants for Texas* (1996), *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening* (1999), *Texas Bug Book* (1999), *Herbs for Texas* (2001), *The Organic Manual* (2002), and *Howard Garrett's Texas Trees* (2002).

Consulting the table of contents reveals that there is no topic he has not included in his *Handbook*. He begins with landscape and gardening design, continues with plant selection, maintenance, and nurturing, and concludes with pest control and poisonous plants. Also included are weather data and instructions for building garden structures, including bat houses.

Is your *Plants for Texas* or your *Texas Organic Vegetable Gardening* so thumbed through and so worn that it is in danger of falling apart in your hands? Look no further for a replacement. Every organic gardener, beginning and veteran, should obtain this book. Non-organic gardeners would benefit also from his recommended listings of plants, trees, and herbs, as well as the landscape and garden design instructions. It is recommended for general collections in public libraries, and in arboretum and horticultural libraries.

Howard Garrett is a landscape architect, certified arborist, horticulturist, and organic practitioner in Dallas, Texas. —Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.